

LESSON

37

PRACTICE WORKSHEET A

Tone

COPYMASTER

Directions: Read the boxed excerpt. Use it to answer the questions.

from “The Two Skyscrapers Who Decided to Have a Child”

In the night time when all the people buying and selling were gone home and there were only policemen and taxicab drivers on the streets, in the night when a mist crept up the streets and threw a purple and gray wrapper over everything, in the night when the stars and the sky shook out sheets of purple and gray mist down over the town, then the two skyscrapers leaned toward each other and whispered.

Whether they whispered secrets to each other or whether they whispered simple things that you and I know and everybody knows, that is their secret. One thing is sure: they often were seen leaning toward each other and whispering in the night the same as mountains lean and whisper in the night.

—Carl Sandburg

1. Look closely at Sandburg’s choice of words. What tone is reflected in the image of nighttime in the city?

2. What tone is indicated by the colors purple and gray?

3. What tone is conveyed by the image of two skyscrapers whispering to each other?

4. Overall, how would you describe the tone of the excerpt?
